



Arizona Department of Education  
Tom Horne,  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Arizona's Seventh Annual Transition Conference

# "Pathways ..."

Addressing the Transition Needs of Youth and Young  
Adults with Disabilities

**September 17-18, 2007**

Radisson Fort McDowell Resort  
10438 N. Fort McDowell Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85264  
(800) 715-0328 or (480) 836-5300

Sponsored by:

- Arizona Department of Education,  
Exceptional Student Services
- Arizona Department of Health Services,  
Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Arizona Department of Economic Security,  
Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Arizona Department of Economic Security,  
Rehabilitation Services Administration,  
Vocational Rehabilitation
- Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Secure Care Education Committee

Jewelry/Fiber Art Design by  
Kionna Robbins/Sophomore  
South Mountain High School  
Phoenix, Arizona





## CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

### Arizona's Seventh Annual Transition Conference "PATHWAYS ..."

Arizona's Seventh Annual Transition Conference "PATHWAYS ..." promises an exciting venue that will include national speakers, state level experts, and active youth participation. Featured will be youth and young adult entertainment and a fabulous display of artwork. The conference will include sessions on Youth and Young Adult Empowerment, Family Voice, Community Partnerships, Legal Implications, Accessing Community Resources, Secure Care, and Assistive Technology. This is not the year to miss!

**Who Should Attend?** State and Local Special Education Directors, Education Specialists, & Teachers/Professors  
School Psychologists, Secondary Special Education Administrators  
State Public Service Agency Personnel  
Individuals with Disabilities/Family Members  
Parent/Student Advocates  
Secure Care Personnel  
Disability Resource Services Personnel

### REGISTRATION

Registration for Arizona's Seventh Annual Conference is now open and will close Friday, September 7, 2007. Conference registration will be processed exclusively online. To register please go to the lower right hand corner of [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov). Click the "Calendar of Events"; then click the drop-down arrow on the calendar and select 'September' and click on the date of September 17. You may also register online by clicking the "View Events by Unit/Division" and select "Pathways ..." Complete the registration process online. If you experience any difficulty, please contact Jeannette Zemeida at (602) 542-3855.

**Registration Cost** \$180.00 both days or \$90.00 for one day - Professional Educators, Service Agency Providers, and Other Professionals  
\$80.00 both days or \$40.00 for one day - Youth and Family Members

Registration will remain open through September 7th and is limited to the first 750 registrants. In the event registration reaches capacity and closes before the deadline, you may contact Jeannette Zemeida at 602-542-3855 to be placed on a waiting list. Complete all registration information in detail.

### Registration Payment

Payment must be made by purchase order, check, or cashiers check only. Credit and debit cards cannot be processed, nor will cash be accepted.

Make check payable to "Arizona Department of Education".

Mail payment to: Arizona Department of Education  
Exceptional Student Services Attn: Jeannette Zemeida  
1535 West Jefferson, Bin 24  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

### Attendance Confirmation

Attendance is strictly based on a registration confirmation and available capacity. Please do not consider the registration process complete without a confirmation number from the online process. Reservations will not be retained without advance payment per check, requisition number or copy of purchase order, which must be received by September 7, 2007 to validate your registration. Please retain and bring your confirmation number with you to the conference.

**Refunds and Cancellations:** All requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than September 7, 2007. Cancellation requests will not be accepted after that date.

**Registrant Substitutions:** Please advise by September 7, 2007 of any attendee substitutions. Call Jeannette Zemeida at (602) 542-3855 or email her at [Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov) with name changes.

**Special /Dietary Needs:** Identification of any special dietary needs must be made through the online Registration form or by calling Jeannette Zemeida at (602) 542-3855 or email her at [Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov) by September 3, 2007.

**ADA Special Accommodation Needs:** If you require special accommodations, please call Jeannette Zemeida (602) 542-3855 or email her at [Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov) with your request by September 3, 2007.

**Room Registration** – Make your reservations directly with the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort by calling 1-800-715-0328 or (480) 836-5300. Rooms will be held under Arizona Department of Education Transition Conference until September 9, 2007 at 5:00 pm at the rate of \$95.00 per night not including state and local taxes.

# Program Overview

## National Presenters

### Denise Bissonnette – September 18, 2007

Denise Bissonnette is one of North America's most sought-after trainers and speakers on career development, job development, workforce development, and "true livelihood." Her early literacy work with political refugees allowed her to see the difficulties they faced in trying to establish themselves in the American workplace. In response, she made a career change and became a Job Developer – working with employers to secure jobs for people from groups that were not traditionally part of the workforce. Denise's job search curriculum, 'Pathways,' has become a cornerstone for the placement services of many social service agencies and educational systems. Her book 'Beyond Traditional Job Development' stands as the definitive text for job development professionals throughout the continent. Other programs include 'Crossroads,' 'Cultivating the Spirit to Work,' and 'Cultivating True Livelihood' curriculum. Denise's new book, '30 Ways to Shine as A New Employee,' is a proactive response to emerging job retention issues.



### Lili Garfinkel – September 17 & 18, 2007

Lili Garfinkel has been an advocate for the underrepresented population of juveniles in the justice system for more than thirty years in Canada and the United States. She is the Coordinator of the Juvenile Justice Project at PACER Center in Minneapolis ([www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)) and was Associate Director of the National Center on Education Disability and Juvenile Justice ([www.edjj.org](http://www.edjj.org)).



### Marilyn and Joe Henn, Keynotes – September 18, 2007

Marilyn & Joe Henn are the parents of Nancy Henn, a daughter with significant autism. Nancy received the Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) 1999 national award and the Autism Society of America (ASA) 2003 national award for Outstanding Individual with Autism. Marilyn and Joe have developed national reputations as speakers by sharing how they developed transition services that led to their daughter's full-time employment. Marilyn Henn is a registered nurse and has received extensive training in behavior management, transition, and supported employment from experts across the country. Joe Henn is a retired executive in tire, rubber and metal parts forming businesses, has become an expert in Social Security Work Incentives, Medicaid, Mental Retardation /Developmental Disabilities funding and housing. He currently manages a family consortium home and has become a limited service provider of habilitation and job coaching services.



### LeDerick R. Horne – September 17, 2007

LeDerick Horne is recognized as a national speaker and advocate for people with disabilities as well as a poet and entertainer. He spent most of his time in school believing he did not have much of a future. A severe learning disability combined with low self-esteem led him to doubt he would be able to go to college or pursue a meaningful career. However, LeDerick became an outstanding student and graduated with honors from New Jersey City University in 2003 with a BA in Mathematics. Since graduation, LeDerick has become the head of his own property management company, Horne & Associates, LLC, and was appointed the Board Chair of Project Eye-To-Eye, a natural mentoring program for students with Learning Disabilities. LeDerick facilitates workshops, delivers keynote presentations, and speaks to thousands of students, teachers, and service providers about his experiences and the importance of youth leadership. As a poet, in the late 1990's LeDerick and two other New Jersey writers formed a group called The Trinity Poets. In 2005 Certified Organik Records released LeDerick Horne's first CD, Rhyme Reason and Song. In 2006 LeDerick co-produced, co-directed, co-wrote, and performed in an original spoken word play loosely based on his experiences organizing open mics.



**Dr. Ed O'Leary – September 18, 2007**

Dr. Ed O'Leary is a Consultant and Program Specialist for Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center. He received his Doctorate from the University of Illinois in Vocational Technical Education/Special Needs (1991) and his Masters in Special Education from Drake University. He has spent over 30 years working in and with schools as a secondary special education teacher, special education consultant, transition specialist, work experience coordinator, program specialist and program director. He developed the Transition Outcomes Project, an approach to helping districts and states meet transition requirements in order to demonstrate improvement and results. The Transition Outcomes Project is now operating in over 25 states/regions and over 1,500 districts across the country.

**Dr. Mary E. Morningstar – September 17, 2007**

Dr. Mary E. Morningstar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas and Director of the Transition Coalition, a research and training center for the transition to adulthood and secondary special education for youth with disabilities. Dr. Morningstar has been involved in statewide in-service training and staff development regarding transition from school to adult life for over 20 years. She was the Training Coordinator for the "Kansas Systems Change in Transition Project" at the University of Kansas. She is actively involved with statewide training of professionals and family members regarding issues in transition including interagency collaboration, compliance with federal regulations regarding transition, school-business partnerships, and the role of families during transition planning. She teaches several classes related to secondary education and transition including vocational training and employment, interagency and community services, and a week-long transition summer institute.

**Tressia M. Shaw, M.D. – September 17, 2007**

Dr. Shaw completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota in public health and family studies and her medical training at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine. She is boarded in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, completing residency training at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center and Phoenix Children's Hospital. Currently, she practices at Phoenix Children's Hospital where she has a focused interest in caring for children and adolescents with special health care needs. She obtained a CATCH grant from the AAP in 2005 to begin the transition clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital. The goal of this clinic is to address the complex medical and social issues of transitioning youth with special needs to adult health care.

**Sean Stephenson, Keynote – September 17, 2007**

Sean is a powerful and recognized speaker with a reputation that extends across the nation and throughout five countries. Sean shares with his audiences events from his life that are extremely engaging, the greatest being he was predicted not to survive at birth because of a rare bone disorder that stunted his growth, confined him to a wheelchair and caused his bones to be extremely fragile (breaking over 200 times since birth). He has been interacting with youth and adult audiences for nearly a decade. Sean authored three books by the age of 21 and has traveled extensively. He has appeared on The Oprah Show; the Discovery Health Channel; CNN News; CBS News; ABC News; C-SPAN; The New York Times and in numerous radio and print media outlets. Sean's services and expertise have been called upon by associations such as: the Federal Aviation Administration; United States Senate (on two occasions); prisons, hospitals, Fortune 500 corporations; numerous schools, universities, and nationally attended student leadership conferences.



# Concurrent Sessions

## Monday, September 17, 2007

Transition to the Community from the Juvenile Justice System: Challenges and Approaches  
It's Grand When the Plan Comes Together  
Utilizing AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA as a Pathway to Training and Employment  
Increasing Academic, Social & Vocational Skills through Culturally Responsive Self-Determined IEPs  
VR: A Partner along the Transition Pathway  
Getting Ready for the College Experience  
Creating Opportunities for Student Success: A Model for Supporting Detained and At Risk Youth  
Transitioning Youth in the Behavioral Health System  
Assisted Reading Software  
Removing Barriers to Learning: The School-Parent-Community Connection  
Arizona Community Transition Teams: The Formation Across Arizona  
Transition Assessments: The Big Picture  
Success in Transition: True Tales Tell it All  
The School to Work Project in Seattle, Washington – A True Community Partnership  
Teaching Self Advocacy by Using Student Led IEPs  
Technology for Struggling Readers: A Secondary Approach to Text Reader Integration

## Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Measurable Post-Secondary Transition Goals: the Legal Requirements  
The Challenges Young Adults with LD, ADHD, and Asperger's Face in Career Planning  
Vocational and Life Skills Training on a College Campus  
Gender Issues and Their Impact on Re-entry for Young Women Offenders  
Beyond Traditional Job Development  
Beyond Barriers to Passion and Possibility  
Transitioning Youth in the Behavioral Health System  
Using Technology to Promote Self-Advocacy  
Where am I Going? How Do I Get There? Developing Self-Determined Behaviors  
If You Take Away Their Life Preservers, Will they Sink or Swim?  
High School & University Partnerships: Helping Students with Disabilities Succeed in College  
Filing for SSI/SSA Disability Benefits for Children Under 18 & Young Adults 18 and Older  
Working While on SSI/SSA Disability Benefits  
A Special Education Inclusion Model: Adobe Mountain High School  
Mentoring as an Approach to Meeting the Transition Needs of Court Involved Young Women  
Merging Two Worlds: It's the Year of Change  
Transition Partnerships: Building the Essential Dialog  
Finding and Funding A Pragmatic Path to Supported Employment



